

VZCZCXYZ0001
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTI #0597 1571345
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 061345Z JUN 06
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4377
INFO RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 2920
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2715
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 5285
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0432
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 4113
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 2777
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 2937
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUFNPKB/COMUSNAVEUR POLAD NAPLES IT
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0897
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 3269
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2156
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 3417

UNCLAS TIRANA 000597

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SCE (SAINZ/BENEDICT) AND H
NSC FOR BRAUN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [AL](#)

SUBJECT: FORMER SENATOR DECONCINI SHINES LIGHT ON ISSUE OF
MISSING CHILDREN IN ALBANIA

¶1. (U) Former U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini, who visited Tirana May 22-24 as a guest of Albanian Ombudsman Dobjani, focused on the plight of missing and trafficked children. DeConcini held meetings with PM Berisha and other Cabinet members, saw the heads of several NGOs that focus on TIP, and was briefed by Country Team members on efforts to combat trafficking in Albania.

¶2. (U) During a private meeting with Ambassador Ries, former Senator DeConcini, a member of the board of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the U.S., expressed his desire to expand the scope of the organization internationally. He said that in many underdeveloped countries police tend not to recognize missing children as an issue that pertains to them and/or have not received adequate training on how to take reports of missing children and to conduct proper investigations. During a lunch hosted by Ambassador Ries in his honor, Senator DeConcini discussed with parliamentary leaders, journalists, and members of NGOs the role of political party structures in the legislative process, and the importance of democracy within political parties themselves.

¶3. (U) Dobjani told Emboffs that DeConcini's visit was well received and helped shed greater light on the issue of missing and exploited children. Dobjani said that during his visit to the Ministry of Justice, DeConcini was briefed on an on-going training program for police and judicial officials for handling cases of missing and exploited children. This program is being funded by UNICEF and the EU. Dobjani said that the Minister and DeConcini discussed the U.S. Amber Alert system. Nothing comparable to this exists in Albania and this was cited as a pressing need. In follow up to this visit, a team from the Albanian Ministry of Justice may travel to the U.S. to learn more about the organization and functioning of the Amber Alert program.

RIES